HANSSON et al                                          Atty Dkt: 2380-140
Serial No. 09/467,018                                  Art Unit: 2142


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:


1. (Original) A telecommunications platform comprising:

a cluster of processors which collectively perform a platform processing function, plural processors of the cluster having Internet Protocol (IP) capabilities and respective plural IP interfaces;

an Internet Protocol (IP) handler distributed throughout the cluster whereby the plural processors have a same IP address, the Internet Protocol (IP) handler forwarding IP frames received from outside the platform on any of the plural IP interfaces and addressed to the same IP address to a correct one of the plural processors executing an IP software application.


2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the Internet Protocol (IP) handler comprises:

a router hosted by at least one of the processors of the cluster;

an interface interconnect which interconnects the plural IP interfaces to the router and passes IP frames incoming to the platform to the router regardless of which of the plural IP interfaces receives the frames; and

a socket comprising:

an active socket central part hosted by the at least one of the processors of the cluster that hosts the router, the active socket central part being connected to the router;

a socket distributed part hosted by the one of the processors of the cluster executing the internet protocol (IP) software application;

wherein the active socket central part determines that the IP frames incoming to the platform are destined to the one of the plural processors of the cluster executing the internet protocol (IP) software application and forwards the IP frames to the socket distributed part, and wherein the internet protocol (IP) software application receives the IP frames from the socket distributed part.

- 3 -

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the plural processors of the cluster are connected to respective plural IP interfaces of a first type; and wherein the platform further comprises an IP interface of a second type, the IP interface of the second type being connected to the router.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the IP interface of the first type is an Ethernet interface and wherein the IP interface of the second type is an ATM interface.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the interface interconnect comprises:
an interface interconnect central part hosted by the at least one of the processors of the cluster that hosts the router; and
an interface interconnect distributed part hosted by the one of the processors of the cluster that executes the internet protocol (IP) software application.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
a standby router hosted by another processor of the cluster;
a standby socket central part hosted by the another processor of the cluster;
whereupon occurrence of a predetermined event, the standby router assumes the functions of the router and the standby socket central part becomes the active socket central part.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the predetermined event is failure of the at least one of the processors of the cluster that hosts the router.

8. (Currently Amended)  A method of operating a telecommunications platform, the method comprising:
using a cluster of processors to perform collectively a platform processing function, the plural processors of the cluster having Internet Protocol (IP) capabilities and respective plural IP interfaces;
using a same IP address for each of the plural processors of the cluster;

- 4 -

~~providing plural processors of~~distributing an Internet Protocol (IP) handling function throughout the cluster with Internet Protocol (IP) ~~capabilities and respective plural IP interfaces;~~whereby IP frames received from outside the platform on any of the plural IP interfaces and addressed to the same IP address are forwarded to a correct one of the plural processors executing an IP software application

~~using a same IP address for each of the plural processors of the cluster;~~

~~forwarding IP frames received from outside the platform on any of the plural IP interfaces and addressed to the same IP address to a correct one of the plural processors executing an IP software application.~~

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

passing IP frames incoming to the platform to a router regardless of which of the plural IP interfaces receives the frames, the router being hosted by one of the plural processors of the cluster;

using the router to route the IP frames to an active socket central part;

determining at the active socket central part that the IP frames incoming to the platform are destined to the one of the plural processors of the cluster executing the internet protocol (IP) software application;

forwarding the IP frames to a socket distributed part hosted by the one of the plural processors of the cluster executing the internet protocol (IP) software application;

receiving the IP frames at the internet protocol (IP) software application from the socket distributed part.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

connecting the plural processors of the cluster to respective plural IP interfaces of a first type; and

connecting the router to an IP interface of a second type.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the IP interface of the first type is an Ethernet interface and wherein the IP interface of the second type is an ATM interface.

-5-

HANSSON et al                                          **Atty Dkt: 2380-140**
Serial No. 09/467,018                                   **Art Unit: 2142**

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

routing IP frames received at any of the plural IP interfaces via an interface interconnect distributed part to an interface interconnect central part, the interface interconnect central part being hosted by a same processor which hosts the router; and

routing the IP frames from the interface interconnect central part to the router, the interface interconnect central part being hosted by a same processor which executes the internet protocol (IP) software application.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

detecting the occurrence of a predetermined condition; and then

activating a standby router hosted by another processor of the cluster;

rendering as active a standby socket central part hosted by the another processor of the cluster;

the standby router assuming the functions of the router and the socket inactive central part becoming the active socket central part.

14. (Original) A telecommunications platform comprising:

a cluster of processors which collectively perform a platform processing function, plural processors of the cluster having Internet Protocol (IP) capabilities and respective plural IP interfaces, the plural processors of the cluster all having a same IP address;

an Internet Protocol (IP) handler distributed throughout the cluster which renders the IP interfaces of the plural processors of the cluster exchangeable whereby knowledge of which one of the plural processors of the cluster is hosting an IP software application being accessed is unnecessary when selecting one of the plural IP interfaces for connecting to the cluster.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the Internet Protocol (IP) handler comprises:

a router hosted by at least one of the processors of the cluster;

an interface interconnect which interconnects the plural IP interfaces to the router and passes IP frames incoming to the platform to the router regardless of which of the plural IP interfaces receives the frames; and

- 6 -

a socket comprising:

an active socket central part hosted by the at least one of the processors of the cluster that hosts the router, the active socket central part being connected to the router;

a socket distributed part hosted by the one of the processors of the cluster executing the internet protocol (IP) software application;

wherein the active socket central part determines that the IP frames incoming to the platform are destined to the one of the plural processors of the cluster executing the internet protocol (IP) software application and forwards the IP frames to the socket distributed part, and wherein the internet protocol (IP) software application receives the IP frames from the socket distributed part.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the plural processors of the cluster are connected to respective plural IP interfaces of a first type; and wherein the platform further comprises an IP interface of a second type, the IP interface of the second type being connected to the router.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the IP interface of the first type is an Ethernet interface and wherein the IP interface of the second type is an ATM interface.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the interface interconnect comprises:

an interface interconnect central part hosted by the at least one of the processors of the cluster that hosts the router; and

an interface interconnect distributed part hosted by the one of the processors of the cluster that executes the internet protocol (IP) software application.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:
a standby router hosted by another processor of the cluster;
a standby socket central part hosted by the another processor of the cluster;

-7-

whereupon occurrence of a predetermined event, the standby router assumes the functions of the router and the standby socket central part becomes the active socket central part.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the predetermined event is failure of the at least one of the processors of the cluster that hosts the router.

21. (New) A telecommunications platform comprising:

a cluster of processors which collectively perform a platform processing function, plural processors of the cluster having Internet Protocol (IP) capabilities and respective plural IP interfaces;

an Internet Protocol (IP) handler distributed throughout the cluster whereby the plural processors have a same IP address, the Internet Protocol (IP) handler forwarding IP frames received from outside the platform on any of the plural IP interfaces and addressed to the same IP address to a correct one of the plural processors executing an IP software application, wherein the Internet Protocol (IP) handler comprises:

a router hosted by at least one of the processors of the cluster;

an interface interconnect hosted in distributed manner by the plural processors, the interface interconnect serving to interconnect the plural IP interfaces to the router and to pass IP frames incoming to the platform to the router regardless of which of the plural IP interfaces receives the frames; and

a socket hosted in distributed manner by the plural processors, the socket being connected to the router through which the internet protocol (IP) software application receives the IP frames.

HANSSON et al                                              Atty Dkt: 2380-140
Serial No. 09/467,018                                      Art Unit: 2142

22. (New) A telecommunications platform comprising:

a cluster of processors which collectively perform a platform processing function, plural processors of the cluster having Internet Protocol (IP) capabilities and respective plural IP interfaces, the plural processors of the cluster all having a same IP address;

an Internet Protocol (IP) handler distributed throughout the cluster which renders the IP interfaces of the plural processors of the cluster exchangeable whereby knowledge of which one of the plural processors of the cluster is hosting an IP software application being accessed is unnecessary when selecting one of the plural IP interfaces for connecting to the cluster, wherein the Internet Protocol (IP) handler comprises:

a router hosted by at least one of the processors of the cluster;

an interface interconnect hosted in distributed manner by the plural processors, the interface interconnect serving to interconnect the plural IP interfaces to the router and to pass IP frames incoming to the platform to the router regardless of which of the plural IP interfaces receives the frames; and

a socket hosted in distributed manner by the plural processors, the socket being connected to the router through which the internet protocol (IP) software application receives the IP frames.

-9-